

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 CU-04 RSR-01 /108 W
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P 102113 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4277

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2038

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, ELAB

SUBJ: TENIENTE STRIKE

REF: SANTIAGO 1942

1. SUMMARY. STREET CLASH BETWEEN CARABINEROS AND TENIENTE STRIKERS MIDDAY MAY 9 IN RANCAGUA (HEADQUARTERS OF MINE COMPLEX) FOLLOWING MASS MEETING WHICH APPROVED INDEFINITE CONTINUANCE OF STOPPAGE. STRIKERS NOW CONTROL MINE HEADQUARTERS, OFFICES, SHOPS AND ROADS TO MINES. END SUMMARY.

2. MIDDAY MAY 8 STRIKERS SEIZED SEVERAL OF ROADS LEADING TO TENIENTE MINING COMPLEX, BLOCKING ALL MINE AND STRIKE- BREAKER TRAFFIC BUT, ALLOWING PRIVATE TRAFFIC TO PASS. STRIKE LEADERS TOLD LABATT EVENING MAY 8 THEY HAD RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM PRES ALLENDE INDICATING GOC WOULD MAKE NO MORE GESTURES TOWARD NEGOTIATION STRIKE SETTLEMENT SINCE MORE THAN 60 PERCENT HAD RETURNED TO JOBS. ACCORDING LEADERS, THEY ANSWERED MESSAGE, WHICH GOVT WIDELY DISSEMINATED, WITH COUNTERCLAIM THAT NO MORE THAN 10 PERCENT WORKING. THEY INVITED ALLENDE TO MASS MEETING WORKERS IN RANCAGUA HELD MORNING MAY 9 TO SEE FOR HIMSELF. APPROXIMATELY 20 OPPOSTION AND 5 TO 6 UP UNION LEADERS OFFERED TO RESIGN IF MORE THAN 10 PERCENT WORKING AT TIME OF ALLENDE VISIT. SAME LEADERS DISCOUNTED POSSIBILITY SYMPATHY STRIKE OF EITHER CHUQUICAMATA OR SALVADOR.

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3. MASS MEETING HELD MORNING MAY 9 IGNORED BY ALLENDE.
BY VOICE VOTE, THOSE PRESENT VOWED TO CONTINUE STRIKE INDEF-
INITELY. STRIKERS LEFT MEETING IN MASS PARADE THROUGH
STREETS RANCAGUA, AND WERE MET BY CARABINERO " SPECIAL
FORCES." STREET BATTLE OF STONES AGAINST TEAR GAS PRODUCED
(ACCORDING TODAY' S MERCURIO) SEVERAL STRIKERS OVERCOME BY
GAS AND ONE CARABINERO HEAD INJURY. AFTERNOON ULTIMAS NOTICIAS
MAY 10 REPORTED 30 STRIKERS INJURED. STRIKE LEADERS SOUGHT
PARLEY WITH CARABINEROS, WORKED OUT ALTERNATE ROUTE AND
PROCEEDED PEACEFULLY. MERCURIO ALSO REPORTED THAT ORDERS TO
CARABINEROS TO BLOCK STRIKERS CAME FROM O' HIGGINS PROVINCE
INTENDENTE LUIS BAEZA SEPULVEDA.

4. GOC RELUCTANCE TO NEGOTIATE SETTLEMENT WITH STRIKE LEADERS,
AND PRESENCE OF INTENSE ACTIVITY COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST
PARTY AND UNION LEADERS TOWARD BREAKING STRIKE, LEAD
STRIKE LEADERS TO BELIEVE UP HAS DECIDED TO MAKE EXAMPLE
OUT OF TENIENTE STRIKE. SEVERAL LEADERS HAVE PRIVATELY VOICED
OPINION THAT GOC IS NOW INTENT ON BREAKING GROWING OPPOSITION
FOLLOWING IN TENIENTE AND ON PROVIDING WARNING TO OTHER UNIONS
THAT GOC IS NO PUSHOVER ON WAGE MATTERS.
DAVIS

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